

over the years on issues ranging from college student loans to United Nations reform.

Senator CLAIBORNE PELL entered the Senate in 1960. His stature in Rhode Island politics perhaps was best summarized by the *Almanac of American Politics*, which called him an "iron fist in a velvet glove." His political strength perhaps was no better demonstrated than when he was first elected to the Senate. In the Democratic primary for the Senate seat, he defeated the current sitting Governor at that time, as well as a former Governor and Senator. My good friend and soon to be Senior Senator from Rhode Island, JOHN CHAFEE—a former State chief executive himself—knows well the formidable political strength of his colleague, having once tried to unseat Senator PELL in 1972, only to come up short.

At the beginning of this Congress, I gave up my seat on the Foreign Relations Committee so that I could serve my State of South Dakota on the Finance Committee. It is safe to say I miss being on that Committee, in part because I enjoyed so much working with my friend from Rhode Island. His stewardship of that Committee as Chairman for 8 years was masterful. He chaired the Committee with quiet but firm strength. Perhaps his greatest legislative achievement during that time was the State Department Authorization bill that became law in 1994. As the ranking member of the International Operations Subcommittee, I worked closely with then Chairman PELL and the Subcommittee Chair, Senator KERRY of Massachusetts, to produce a sound, bipartisan bill. This legislation made significant strides to streamline the State Department bureaucracy. It also set us on a course to reform the United Nations, and made significant improvements in our Nation's nonproliferation laws.

Senator PELL's inspirational commitment to world peace is exceeded only by his strong dedication to the cause of education in this country. In 1972, Senator PELL shepherded to passage legislation that established the Basic Education Opportunity Grants Program—a college aid program for economically disadvantaged college students. Today, we know them as Pell Grants. Nearly 25 years after their creation, Pell Grants represent a beacon of hope for young people who desire to attend college but lack the resources to attend. This Congress has shown its firm commitment to the Pell Grant program. Indeed, Pell Grants are now at their highest level in the program's history.

The people of Rhode Island have numerous reasons to be proud of their senior senator. His entire life has been devoted to public service—from membership in the Coast Guard to membership in the U.S. Senate. As we all know, our dear friend faces his greatest challenge to date—battling Parkinson's disease. Since he made this announcement last year, my wife Harriet

and I have had Senator PELL in our prayers. He will continue to be.

We will miss the compassionate leadership of Senator CLAIBORNE PELL. Most important, we will miss his friendship. CLAIBORNE PELL can leave the Senate knowing that he has given our Nation a legislative legacy of the highest order, one that will be unrivaled for years to come. I wish my friend from Rhode Island the very best for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BRADLEY

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to one of my colleagues and Senate classmates who is leaving the Senate very soon—my friend from New Jersey, Senator BILL BRADLEY.

Senator BRADLEY entered the Senate the same year I did—1979. The roads BILL and I traveled to get to the Senate had some similarities, but mainly vast differences. My journey to the Senate weaved through my hometown of Humboldt to Oxford to Harvard Yard and, ultimately, to the House of Representatives. BILL BRADLEY's began in Crystal City, MO, where his father was a banker. BILL BRADLEY also was a Rhodes Scholar, but before that, he went to Princeton University, where he re-wrote both the NCAA and the Ivy League recordbooks as a basketball player. BILL BRADLEY's exploits on the hardwood at Princeton are the stuff of sports legend. I remember well his senior season, when he led the Princeton Tigers to the NCAA Final Four. Though the Tigers came up short, he set a tournament scoring record and was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Of course, BILL BRADLEY continued to be a standout basketball player on a professional level for 10 years with the New York Knicks. He helped the New York Knicks win the NBA world championship. Not long after he retired from professional basketball, Senator BRADLEY sought to be a standout in the political world. Yet again, he succeeded.

Senator BRADLEY must be feeling a strange sense of *deja vous* to hear many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle calling for a simpler tax code. In 1982, our friend from New Jersey put forward his "Fair Tax" plan. He continued to advocate a restructuring of the tax code, and in 1986, his tenacious efforts paid off. The 1986 tax plan represented the most radical restructuring of the tax code in more than a generation. It is safe to say that this would not have occurred without Senator BRADLEY's legislative and leadership skills. It was Senator BRADLEY that who as the bridge between the competing House and Senate tax proposals, with the final plan bearing a great deal of similarity to Senator BRADLEY's 1982 plan.

The 1986 tax reform plan demonstrated that when Senator BRADLEY takes on an issue, he does so with firm determination. My friend from New

Jersey and I have worked together on a number of issues and we have been on opposite sides on many others. He has taken strong stands on the environment, civil rights, and health care. When BILL BRADLEY speaks on any issue, whether I agree or disagree with him, his words are well thought and his arguments are well formulated. There is no question that he is a man of ideas, a man committed to examining the major problems of our Nation, proposing solutions, and working to get them accomplished. That is the stuff of leadership.

Senator BRADLEY has become a key player in our Nation's political dialogue. Indeed, he is a person to whom many of us in the Senate like to go to for his thoughts and his perspectives on any issue, ranging from the tax code to the NBA playoffs. That is why we should all be pleased that, although BILL BRADLEY may leave the Senate, he has made clear he intends to remain on the public stage.

I have enjoyed serving in the Senate with my friend from New Jersey. I particularly enjoyed serving with him these past two years on the Finance Committee. I will miss him. I certainly hope he takes advantage of the privileges afforded to former members and visits the Senate as often as possible. I wish him nothing but the very best as he embarks on the next chapter of what is already a legendary life and career. One can call Senator BRADLEY many things—basketball player, Rhodes scholar, tax reformer, and United States Senator. I am proud to call BILL BRADLEY my friend.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SAM NUNN—GEORGIA'S SENIOR SENATOR

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, as the 104th Congress draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to bid farewell to my many good friends who today will cast their final votes in the United States Senate. Prominent among these departing leaders is the great Senator from Georgia—Senator SAM NUNN. As a fellow farmer, I have an inherent respect for Senator NUNN. His leadership and tenacity—so often demonstrated from his desk across the aisle—have time and again earned him the admiration of the members of this body and his constituents. His years of service to his country and state will be remembered forever.

Senator NUNN has dedicated much of his life to ensuring that United States defense capabilities remain the strongest in the world. A native of the area in Georgia where General Sherman's troops once rallied, his patriotism may be attributed in part to a long bloodline of military and Congressional service. In his roles as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee, he consistently has fought to make certain our country has the most advanced military weaponry in the world. His efforts have